YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. C. E. EDWARDS, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1961

W. Walters & Son, Ltd., Clydach Press, High St., Clydach.

The Medical Officer of Health's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the health and sanitation of the Rural District of Ystradgynlais for the year 1961.

I took up my appintment of M.O.H. for the Southern Combined Districts of Breconshire and as Assistant Medical Officer to the Breconshire County Council in May, 1961.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters appertaining to Public Health since my appointment. Also to the officers of the Council for their help and consideration in all matters connected with the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. E. EDWARDS,
B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SEWERAGE

The whole of the district is on main drainage with one sewerage disposal works. The disposol plant has been working normally and the sewerage effluent complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

The district consists of two parishes. Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower, their respective areas 13,182 and 9,016 a total of 22,198 acres.

Population 11,000.

Industries : Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, light engineering and furniture manufacture, quarrying and agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
No. of legitimate live births ...	71	69	140
No. of illegitimate live births ...	1	1	2
Total live births	72	70	142
Birth Rate per 1000 population ...			12.9
Registrar General's comparibility factor			0.98
Corrected birth rate			12.64
No. of still births—legitimate ...	—	—	—
No. of illegitimate still births ...	—	—	—

DEATHS

Deaths taking place within district...	134	
Crude death rate per 1000 pop. ...	12.18	
Registrar General's comparibility factor		1.28
Corrected death rate	15.59	

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from Puerpural Cancer ...	Nil
Deaths from other Maternal Cancer	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	—	—	—
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infants Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births		28.17	

NEO NATAL MORTALITY

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	—	—	—
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Neo Natal Mortality Rate/1000 Live Births			28.17

EARLY NEO NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Male	Female	Total
3	1	4

PRE NATAL MORTALITY RATE 28.17

CANCER DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
No. of deaths from malignant Neoplasm and Lymphatic	—	—	—
Neoplasm	12	9	21

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	Male	Female
Pulmonary T.B.	—	—
Non Pulmonary T.B.	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diptheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningcoccal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomeylitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease ...	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATHS—continued.

Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	3	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung Bronchitis ...	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	—	—
Other Malignant Lymphatic Neoplasm ...	4	5
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular Lesion of Nervous System	9	13
Coronary Diseases. Angina	20	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	4	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—
Bronchitis	12	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	8	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenam	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
Congenital Malformation	1	—
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases ...	6	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
All other Accidents	—	—
Suicide	2	1
Homicide and Operations of War	2	1
	83	**51**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Measles	30
Whooping Cough	—
Scarlet Fever	—
Diptheria	—
T.B.	2
Meningitis	—
Salmonella	—
Poliomeylitis	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (continued).

Erysipelas	—
Dysentry	—
Paratyphoid	—
Gastric Enteritis	—
Puerpural Pyrexia	—
Pneumonia	1

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES NOTIFIED

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	1	—	1
Non Respiratory	1	—	1
			2

LABORATORY FACILITIES

General Medical : Beck Laboratory General Hospital, Swansea.
Water Supplies : Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.
Milk : Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Hospital Accomodation :

Infectious Diseases : The infectious disease Hospital is situated at Hill House, Swansea and is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospital Facilities : General Hospital facilities are provided for at Swansea General Hospital, Morriston Hospital and the West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath, all of which are under the control of the Reginoal Hospital Board.

Ambulance Services : There are two Ambulances stationed in the district and they are under the control of the Breconshire County Council.

WATER SUPPLY

There are five piped supplies in the area, four of which are chlorinated. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity

and every house has its own piped supply, except in the case of a few scattered dwellings such as isolated farms. No water in the district is liable to plumbo solvent action. There has been no evidence of any form of contamination. There are no stand pipes supplies.

Date	Water Supply	Results
12.1.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
12.1.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
12.1.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
8.2.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
8.2.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
8.2.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
8.2.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
11.3.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
11.3.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
11.3.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
11.3.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
11.4.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
11.4.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
11.4.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
11.4.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
16.5.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
16.5.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
16.5.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
26.5.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
17.6.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
17.6.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
19.6.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
19.6.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
4.7.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
4.7.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
4.7.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
7.9.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
7.9.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
7.9.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
7.9.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
17.10.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
17.10.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
17,10.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
17.10.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
9.11.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory

Date	Water Supply	Results
9.11.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory
9·11.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
9.11.61	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
4.12.61	Colbren Supply	Satisfactory
4.12.61	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory
4.12.61	Garwleisiau	Unsatisfactory
4.12.61	Lion Supply	Satisfactory

The Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members

I have the honour of presenting my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

No houses were built during the year but 12 houses became vacant and were allocated to those on the waiting list. However, the completion of 8 one bedroom bungalows at Abercrave was a landmark in the Council's re-housing activities and it is pleasing to report that those old people who were fortunate to obtain the tenancies of these bungalows are very pleased indeed with their new living conditions. The decision to site these bungalows in the middle of traditional houses has proved to be a good one for the old folk have fitted very happily indeed into the existing community. The selection of some of these elderly tenants from those who occupied Council Houses that had become too large for them was another step in the right direction and could be repeated when the opportunity arises, provided of course thot some slices of the cake are retained for other sections of the community.

Routine inspections of food premises and slaughterhouses were maintained and advice tendered where necessary. In one shop it became necessary to serve a Notice under the Food Hygiene Regulations and to administer a severe warning. However, a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained in the local shops and the high standard of animals slaughtered locally is reflected in the negligable amount of meat condemned during the year.

Your obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES
Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing and Public Health Acts)	**1016**
Water Supply	13
Drainage	29
Housing Inspections	187
Infectious Diseases	3
Verminous Premises	0
Factories and Workshops	5
Licensed Premises	0
Atmospheric Pollution	56
Rodent Control	1
Refuse Collection and Dispopsal	142
Butchers	134
Canteens	33
Grocers	41
Dairies and Milk Distributors	21
Bakehouses	9
Miscellaneous Food Visits	9
Food Preparing Premises	23
Sampling Visits	
Milk	12
Ice Cream	6
Tents, Vans & Sheds	6
Public Conveniences	51
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	26
Slaughterhouses	209
	1016

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year. (Public Health & Housing Acts.)	187
(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose ...	187
Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.	
Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Offices	2

Action under the Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts 1936	0
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices	0
(a)	By Owner	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
(b)	Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 of the Housing Acts 1936	0
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of undertaking given by owners under Section 11	4
(4)	Statutory Notices served under Water Act ...	0
(5)	Number complied with	0
(c)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	0
(1)	Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements in underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit.	0

NOTICES SERVED

Under the Housing Act:

Number of Informal Notices served ...	0
Number of Informal Notices complied with	0
Number of Formal Notices served ...	0
Number of Formal Notices complied with	0

Under the Public Health Act :

Number of Informal Notices	12
Number of Informal Notices complied with	3
Number of Formal Notices served ...	5
Number of Formal Notices complied with	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Cleansing—both collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and three collections weekly are made with the exception of the main shopping centre where the collections are carried out daily. The total tonage collected during the year was 9,262 tons.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the three refuse lorries operated by the Council are not only becoming the worse for wear, but their pattern is also becoming obsolete. The side loading lorry is only one step removed from the horse and cart and is fast disappearing from the Local Government scene, and I feel that the time is approaching for the Council to consider moving with the times in this respect by purchasing two new Diesel engined vehicles with a compressor or end loading facilities.

The 50 litter bins placed in various parts of the district are serving their purpose and are doing their duty in keeping tidy our little corner of Britain.

DISINFECTION

Three houses were disinfected during the year and which is a reflection on the low incidence of infectious diseases in the locality. Fumigation by formalin gas was carried out in these cases and a free supply of liquid disinfectant distributed for the use of householders concerned in washing down the premises, bed clothes, drains etc.

MILK SUPPLY

Milk delivery vans were regularly inspected under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and were found to be satisfactorily kept. During the year 18 samples of milk were taken for analysis and of these 6 were from schools, 7 from dairies and 5 from a hospital in the area, all of which were reported as being satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Only three premises are now used in the district for the manufacture of ice cream—the greater quantity of this commodity now being sold in pre-packed form in shops and received from the large nationally known manufacturers from without the area. The local ice cream factories are regularly inspected, particularly during the summer months, and a satisfactory degree of cleanliness is always observed. 15 samples were taken for analysis from these premises with the following results :

No. of samples	:	15
No. in Grade 1	:	9
No. in Grade 2	:	4
No. in Grade 3	:	2
No. in Grade 4	:	0

It is encouraging to note from these figures that by far the greater number of samples were placed in Grade 1 and that none was placed in Grade 4.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

A register of Fried Fish Shops is kept and five premises throughout the area have been registered. Inspections are made during the daytime when preparation for the evening's business is carried on, also occasional visits are made during the evening. I have no cause to report any serious breach of the regulations.

PRESERVED FOODS

Ten premises have been registered under the Food & Drugs Act as premises used for the manufacture of preserved foods. These are butchers shops or butchery departments at Co-operative Stores where sausages are made. A separate room is used for the manufacturing process and a high standard of cleanliness is demanded at these premises. The premises, including the utensils are inspected and examined thoroughly and every effort is made to inspect these premises at least once a month more often than not during the hours of manufacturing.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

During the year the following slaughterhouses were registered :

1. Danygraig, Colbren, occupied by Mr. John Jeffreys.

2 Glangiedd, Cwmgiedd, occupied by Mr. T. J. Thomas.

These slaughterhouses are inspected regularly, together with all animals slaughtered therin.

MEAT INSPECTION

Inspections were systematically made at the Colbren and Cwmgiedd slaughterhouses, and with only two slaughterhouses to cope with, and a limited amount of slaughtering it was possible to obtain almost 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered during the year. In all 212 visits were made for this purpose and the following is a table of animals inspected :

Animals inspected		Parts condemned Diseases except T.B. & Cysticeri	Whole Carcases Condemned. All Diseases except Cysticeri
Beasts	176	26 Parts (Liver)	
Cows	Nil	85 lbs.	NIL
Calves	4	1 Part Beef	
Sheep	984	50 lbs.	
Pigs	88		

Meat imported into the district is also inspected from time to time.

FOOD PREMISES

Food shops, canteens and restaurants were visited regularly and the Food Hygiene Regulations were brought to the notice of all persons in charge or employed in such premises. On one owner Notices under Sections 6,8 9,16 17 and 23 of the Regulations were served, together with a firm warning as to the outcome unless compliance was forthcoming. The Notices were immediately complied with.

Following is a list of food condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption :

Baked Beans	6 Tins
Birds Sponge Mix	4 Pks
Biscuits	24 Pks
Cooked Ham	50 lbs
Blackcurrents	1 Tin

FOOD CONDEMNED (continued).

Cheese	2 lbs
Coconut	12 Pks
Corned Beef	6 Tins
Jellies	12 pks
Peanut Butter	5 Jars
Pork	2¾ lbs
Raisins	16 Pks
Sauce	12 Bottles
Soup Powders	25 Pks
Tinned Fish	24 Tins
Tinned Fruit	204 Tins
Tinned Meat	72 Tins
Tinned Milk	21 Tins
Tinned Puddings	2 Tins
Tinned Soups	69 Tins
Tinned Tomatoes	57 Tins
Tinned Vegetables	60 Tins

SEWAGE EFFLUENT

Samples of sewage effluent were taken at the Council's Sewage Works prior to being discharged into the River Tawe, and on these the Public Analyst summarised as follows :

Sample No. 1 (6th April, 1961)

The Biological Oxygen Demand of the effluent was satisfactory and well below the Royal Commision limit of 20 parts per million required of an effluent suitable for discharge into a river or stream.

Nitrification was good, showing that most of the organic matter had been oxidised.

Sample No. 2 (27th June, 1961)

Analysis of the sample showed that the organic matter in the original sewage had been well oxidised. The matter in suspension had been reduced to well below the Royal Commission's standard of 30 parts per million. Likewise the Biological Oxygen Demand of the sample was only 5.6 parts which is very much below the limiting figure of 20 parts per million. The purification attained at the plant was such as to result in an effluent highly suitable for discharging into a river or stream.

Sample No. 3 (17th November, 1961)

This effluent was highly satisfactory. It contained only traces of organic nitrogenous substances, which showed that the organic matter had been almost completely oxidised in the process of purification. The recommended limit for B.O.D. as laid down by the Royal Commission is 20 p.p.m ; that for the effluent sample was only 1/10th of this. The matter in suspension was also well within the limit of 30 p.p m. laid down by the same Authority.

HOUSING

The inspection of houses in the district was maintained and 12 informal Notices calling for repairs were served. The high percentage of owner occupiers in the area has a marked effect on the fitness of old houses, most of which have by now been repaired or substantially improved and are a pleasure to visit. The encouragement given by the Council to those applying for Improvement Grants is paying good dividends.

No new houses were built during the year, but 12 families were rehoused in houses that became vacant and two flats were allocated to elderly people. The completion of the eight one roomed bungalows for Old Age Pensioners at Abercrave meant a modern home with every facility and to those that had thoroughly deserved such amenities, comfort and happiness.

A total of 22 families were rehoused during the year.

OBSTRUCTIVE AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

On the first of November the Public Health Act, 1961 came into operation, the provisions of which I reported briefly to the Council, particularly Section 27, which deals with dangerous and ruinous buildings, etc., being seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood.

In this connection I reported the disgusting conditions prevailing on a site within a stone's throw of the centre of Ystradgynlais —conditions that would nauseate a citizen of paleolithic times—the Flintstones would never tolerate such conditions. I feel the Council should take immediate steps towards having this important site improved in the interests of public health and of public amenities, and, if possible, to lift this horrible scar completely from the brows of our village.

CLEAN AIR

Two premises are being used for the screening and storage of coal, namely :

1. Phoenix Works, Cwmtwrch.
2. Salem Yard, Cwmtawe Road, Penrhos.

Neighbours are complaining bitterly of the dust created at those places, and petrie dishes were placed in various positions for readings of dust deposits. The readings were reported upon from time to time and it is hoped that the co-operation of the proprietors concerned will be obtained to keep the dust down to the minimum. Both places are being kept under observation.

RAINFALL

January	8.16
February	4.80
March	0.82
April	8.10
May	2.57
June	2.12
July	2·18
August	5.36
September	7.57
October	11.02
November	4.44
December	5.72
Total	**64.86**

RODENT CONTROL

The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows :

Sewers ...	1	Section
Refuse Tips	13	
River Banks	15	
Premises ...	624	
Total	**653**	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector.

FACTORIES

There are 25 factories in the district, most of which are small Garages, Boot Repairers, etc. However, four are large modern factories, where the products include - (1) Furniture; (2) Watches; (3) Clocks; (4) Bicycle Wheel Hubs. The Sanitary Conveniences at these large factories were inspected and found to be satisfactory in all respects.

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